

REMARKS

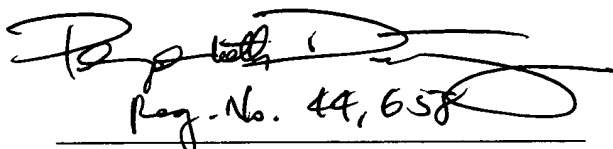
This Preliminary Amendment includes a Substitute Specification in which a literal translation of the original German patent application is revised in accordance with English idiom and U.S. patent practice. Care was exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. An English-language abstract is also submitted.

Claims 1-13 are amended to recite the subject matter in customary U.S. format and to eliminate multiple dependencies. No new matter is introduced.

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8501 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & MORI, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Carlson", written over a horizontal line.

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5/22/06
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